



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1734
Examiner : Brenda A. Lamb
Serial No. : 09/628,405
Filed : August 1, 2000
Inventors : Ichiro Tanokuchi
: Sachihiro Iida
Title : GAS WIPING APPARATUS
: AND METHOD



22469

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket: 1299-00
Confirmation No.: 5642
Dated: November 11, 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

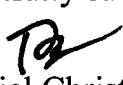
Sir:

We submit herewith Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the publications listed therein. They are submitted to comply with the Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Also enclosed is a copy of a European Search Report issued October 2, 2002. The enclosed publications are believed related in view of their mention in the Search Report for the reasons stated.

Applicants certify that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months ago.

It is accordingly requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be officially entered in the file of this case and that appropriate notification be made that it was considered in the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,


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